

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

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B1
A2

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically tracking and balancing account receivable data comprising:

(a) submitting a billing data file to a processing entity said billing data file comprising customer account records representing accounts receivable for a given Carrier;

(b) separating determining each of said customer account records into as one of at least two tracking data sets based on pre-defined criteria;

(c) computing the total amount of accounts receivable located in each tracking data set related to a said given Carrier;

(d) comparing the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable related to a said given Carrier to the total amount of processed accounts receivable related to said Carrier;

(e) creating a discrepancy report comprising said Carriers whose if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable do not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivables; and

(f) creating a settlement report for each said Carrier whose if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable submitted equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising routing said discrepancy report to at least one location accessible to at least one discrepancy source-identifier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising routing said settlement report to at least one location accessible to at least one end-user of said settlement report.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 3 wherein said at least one location is a workstation connected to the processing ~~entities system~~ entity by a local network.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said customer account records comprise a unique means to identify the Carrier that generated the customer account record.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said customer account records further comprise a customer account number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said customer account records further comprise the amount payable for services rendered by said Carrier.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said customer account records further comprises the billing cycle in which the customer account is payable.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the billing cycle is the criteria used to ~~separated~~ determine each of the customer account records ~~into~~ one of said tracking data sets.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking data sets include a Billed data set wherein said Billed data set comprises said customer account records with accounts payable in ~~the~~ a current billing cycle.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking data sets include an Unbilled data set wherein said Unbilled data set comprises said customer account records with accounts payable in a further billing cycle.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tracking data sets include an Error data set wherein said Error data set comprises invalid customer account records.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the discrepancy report comprises:

a) the total amount of account receivable data submitted to the processing entity relating to a said given Carrier; and

b) the total amount of account receivable data located in each tracking data set relating to said Carrier.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the settlement report comprises the amount of accounts receivable located in each tracking data set relating said Carrier.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing an agreement between a plurality of said Carriers and asaid processing entity, said Carriers agreeing to submit said billing data files to the processing entity and said processing entity agreeing to process said billing data files and remit payment to said Carriers.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically tracking and balancing account receivable data comprising:

(a) ~~a Carrier~~ submitting a billing data file to a processing entity, said billing data file comprising customer account records representing accounts receivable for a ~~given~~said Carrier; and

~~(b) separating the processing entity.~~

~~determining each of said customer account records into~~as one of at least two tracking data sets based on pre-defined criteria;

(c) computing the total amount of accounts receivable located in each tracking data set related to ~~a given~~said Carrier;

(d) comparing the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable related to ~~a given~~said Carrier to the total amount of processed accounts receivable related to said Carrier;

(e) creating a discrepancy report comprising said Carriers whose ~~if the~~ total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable do not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivables; and

~~(f) creating a settlement report for each~~said Carrier whose ~~if the~~ total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable submitted equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 further comprising a notification device routing said discrepancy reports to at least one location accessible to at least one discrepancy source-identifier.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 further comprising a notification device routing said settlement reports to at least one location accessible to at least one end-user of said settlement report.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing entity includes a data storage device ~~stores~~storing said billing data files submitted to the processing entity and ~~stores~~storing said tracking data sets.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing entity includes a tracking device separates determining each of said customer account records into as one of said at least two tracking data sets based on said pre-defined criteria.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the processing entity includes a reconciliation device,

a) copies copying a given- said Carrier's accounts receivable from said tracking data sets based on said pre-defined criteria;

b) computes computing the total amount of processed accounts receivable for said Carrier;

c) compares comparing the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable with the total amount of processed accounts receivable submitted for said Carrier;

d) creates creating a discrepancy report if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable does not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivable submitted for said Carrier; and

e) creates creating a settlement report if the total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable submitted for said Carrier.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said discrepancy report contains a list of Carriers whose total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable did not equal the total amount of processed accounts receivable submitted for said Carrier.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said settlement report contains the total accounts receivable computed in each tracking data set for a Carrier whose total amount of pre-processed accounts receivable equals the total amount of processed accounts receivable submitted for said Carrier.